

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-23 and 25 are allowed. Claim 24 is herein amended to clarify additional limitations. Claims 9 and 10 are additionally amended to correct two minor typographical errors. Applicants assert that no new matter has been entered.

Claims Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ding et al. (U.S. 6,630,397) in view of Zhang et al. (U.S. 20040029395).

The Examiner relies on Zhang paragraph [0041], which states that suitable polymers within the ARC process solution include SOG-ARC materials set forth in Baldwin et al. (U.S. 6,365,765). The Examiner asserts that Baldwin discloses ARC layers made of polysiloxanes having light-absorbent groups including aromatic groups.

However, the Applicants note that the Examiner does not point to any specific disclosure in Baldwin et al. that directly relates to Formula (1), as claimed in claim 24. Applicants submit that there is no apparent disclosure that shows a polymer base of SiO₄. Applicants note that Baldwin et al. teaches toward an organic dye with the chemical composition 9-anthracene carboxy-methyl trioxysilane. Applicants direct the attention of the Examiner to claim (1) and FIG 1b, 10 of Baldwin et al.

Moreover, Applicants herein amend claim 24 to more fully clarify the invention. Thereafter, Applicants submit that the rejection should be withdrawn because not all of the claimed elements are taught or suggested by the cited reference.

Claim 24, as presently clarified, now recites a method of forming a pattern comprising the step of forming laminated film for pattern formation on a substrate, wherein the laminated film for pattern formation includes an innermost layer comprising a thermosetting resin, an inner layer comprising a silicone-containing light absorbent material and a surface layer comprising a photosensitive resin, and the inner layer comprises a polysiloxane compound expressed by Formula (1).

Applicants submit that the additional limitations are not taught or suggested by the cited references, alone or in combination. That is, the innermost layer including a thermosetting resin, an inner layer including a silicone-containing light absorbent material, and a surface layer including a photosensitive resin are absent from the cited reference.

Therefore, because not all of the claimed elements are taught or suggested by the cited references, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 24 should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.116
Attorney Docket No. 030757
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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